

REMARKS

Applicants submit this Amendment After Final in reply to the final Office Action dated May 18, 2005. As of the Office Action of May 18, 2005, claims 22, 25, 26, 28-30, 32-39, and 57-89 were pending in this application, with claims 22, 57, 70, and 84 being independent. In the final Office Action dated May 18, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 22, 30, 34, 57, 64, 68, and 89 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,833,631 to Nguyen. In addition, the Examiner allowed claims 70-88 and indicated that claims 25, 26, 28, 29, 32, 33, 35-39, 58-63, 65-67, and 69 included allowable subject matter and were merely objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims. Accordingly, the Examiner indicated that claims 25, 26, 28, 29, 32, 33, 35-39, 58-63, 65-67, and 69 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of the base claim and any intervening claims.

While Applicants do not agree that the rejection of claims 22, 30, 34, 57, 64, 68, and 89 is proper, solely in the interests of expediting prosecution of this application, Applicants hereby present the above amendments in order to place this application in condition for allowance. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended independent claims 22 and 57 to include the subject matter of previous dependent claims 26 and 59 respectively. Claims 26 and 59 have been cancelled. In addition, Applicants have rewritten previously objected to claims 28, 29, 32, 33, 38, 60, 61, and 62 in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants submit that all of pending claims 22, 25, 28-30, 32-39, 57, 58, and 60-89 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested in response to this Amendment.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully requests that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing the pending claims in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments of the claims do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were earlier claimed in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner. The entering of the Amendment would place the application in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing remarks, this claimed invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

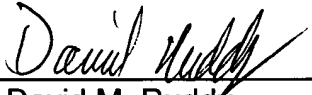
The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action. In discussing the claims in this Amendment, it is to be understood that Applicants are in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to any exemplary embodiments described in the specification and/or shown in the drawings. Rather, Applicants are entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: July 07, 2005

By: 
David M. Ruddy
Reg. No. 53,945